currently ranging from US $ 26.50 (ex- CIS)—US $ 15 (ex-Middle East) per metric tonne. Thus the landed cost of imported urea comes to between US $ 152.50 (ex-Middle East)—US $ 164.50 (ex-CIS) per metric tonne. At the current exchange rate of nearly Rs. 45.60 per US $, the C and F cost of imported area in the region of Rs. 6,954—Rs. 7,501 per metric tonne. Against this, the weighted average retention price of gas based urea units is Rs. 6,270 per metric tonne and that of naphtha based units is Rs. 11,837 per metric tonne.

Rate of secondary freight of urea

†3415. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review the rate of secondary freight of urea; and

(b) if so, by when, a decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The revision of secondary freight is linked to the comprehensive 7th Pricing Policy review for urea, for which proposal is made. The implementation of the new rates will be based on the approval given by the Government.

Urea Manufacturing by Private/Public Units

3416. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the average energy consumed, in million kilo calories, per tonne of urea manufactured by units of both the private and public sector units and that went on stream since 1985;

(b) the average energy consumed, in million kilo calories, per tonne of urea manufactured by the units that went on stream before 1985; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to encourage the pre-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1985 units to achieve the levels of energy efficiency being achieved by the post 1985 units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (c) The average energy consumption for urea manufacturing units commissioned sinced 1985 was 6.16 million kilo calories per tonne urea during 1999-2000 as against 8.10 million kilo calories per tonne of urea for pre-1985.

Government policy encourages indigenous urea manufacturers to implement energy reduction measures such as purge gas recovery unit, synthesis converter retrofit, online optimizer and selectoxo process for ammonia plants. the investment made on such energy saving schemes is recognized immediately for fixation of retention price but the benefits accuring on this account are allowed to be retained by the units for three years, after which they are mopped up for pricing purposes.

Disinvestment of Fertilizer PSUs

3417. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertilizer availability is a major factor for agricultural production, particularly foodgrains production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that green revolution, which marked a decisive progress of the country towards food security, was based on enhanced indigenous fertilizer production;

(c) whether food security is a strategic national objective and whether the fertilizer industry is a strategic industry; and

(d) if so, whether Government would disinvest in fertilizer PSUs and if not, the reaons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Among seven inputs of agricultural production namely seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, agricultural implements and machinery, water and technology and its transfer to farmers, fertilizers are one of the important inputs. No study quantifying the role of individual input has been made. The nutritional requirements of plants can be met by use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers, but availability of